



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Friedman et al.

Appl. No. 10/040,375

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: **Method and Apparatus for
Transferring and Loading a
Reticle with a Robotic Reticle End
Effector**

Confirmation No. 4144

Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: D. Underwood

Atty. Docket: 1857.0690000

Election Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(b)(2)(i)

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GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

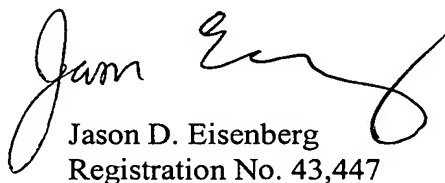
In the Office Action dated **June 12, 2003**, the Examiner identified the above-captioned application as containing more than one independent and distinct inventions for which a requirement for restriction or for the filing of divisional application cannot be made or maintained pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(b)(2). In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(b)(2)(i), Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group II, represented by claims 11-42. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made without traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


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Registration No. 43,447

Date: 7/9/03

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July 9, 2003

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Art Unit 3652

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/040,375; Filed: January 9, 2002
For: **Method and Apparatus For Transferring and Loading a Reticle with
a Robotic Reticle End Effector**

Inventors: Friedman *et al.*

Our Ref: 1857.0690000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Election Under 37 C.F.R §1.129(b)(2)(i); and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
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DJF/JDE/adw
Enclosures